



The Judicial Branch News

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February 2010

From the Presiding Judge: June Rotations

In this Issue

New Departmental
Judges.....2

New Chief Juvenile
Probation Officer.....2

Governor Appoints Judge
Christopher Coury.....3

February Anniversaries.....4

Photo Highlights.....8

The *Judicial Branch News* is an online newsletter published by the Media Relations and Community Outreach Department. The newsletter is also available on the Court's Intranet site at:
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If you wish to contribute to this newsletter, please send articles, news items, photos or other correspondence to:
karra@superiorcourt.maricopa.gov.

"Committed to the Timely, Fair and Impartial Administration of Justice."



Barbara Rodriguez Mundell
Presiding Judge

Each June, when our judges and commissioners are attending the statewide judicial conference hosted by the Arizona Supreme Court, our Court performs judicial rotations.

Rotations are done during the judicial conference because it creates the least amount of disruption to our court customers.

This year's rotation has a special significance for me. It marks my last judicial rotation as Presiding Judge.

In June, we will welcome in newly-appointed Presiding Judge Norman Davis. We will also see a change at the top of each court department. Judge Davis has already assembled an excellent cadre of judicial officers to lead the various departments in our Court.

Twenty-one judges and four commissioners will be taking on new assignments. Also, three new judges will be appointed to fill vacancies created by the departures of Judges Cathy Holt, Richard Trujillo and me.

See Rotations Page 7

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Judicial Departmental Appointments

New Departmental Judges

By newly-appointed Presiding Judge Norman J. Davis

I am pleased to announce that effective with the normal June rotation of judges, the following judges have agreed to serve as Departmental Presiding Judges:

Associate Presiding Judge & Juvenile Presiding Judge:	Eddward Ballinger Jr.
Criminal Presiding Judge:	Douglas Rayes
Associate Criminal Presiding Judge:	Warren Granville
Civil Presiding Judge:	Robert Oberbillig
Family Court Presiding Judge:	Carey Hyatt
Probate Presiding Judge:	Rosa Mroz
Tax Presiding Judge:	Dean Fink

When I'm asked why I want to serve as the next Presiding Judge of this court, I always answer the same way: We have the greatest group of judicial officers and staff in the nation. The high standards of excellence, integrity and honor that our judicial officers display has been an inspiration to me since my first day on this bench. I can't tell you how gratifying it is to ask someone to take on the added responsibility of leadership, and without hesitation hear judges say, "sure", "absolutely", "of course", "whatever you need". Each of these judges has great energy, talent and leadership ability, and each has a proven track record in the courtroom.

I also want to thank the currently serving Presiding Judges who have given such exemplary service to the court, to the community and to each of us the last several years. Great strides have been made in each of our departments as a result of the vision and dedication of Judge Donahoe, Judge Ryan, Judge Gama, Judge McNally, Judge O'Connor, most recently, Judge Fink, and the regional Presiding Judges who will remain.

Judge Mundell will shortly announce the remaining individual rotations, and we are fortunate to still have the benefit of her leadership for several more months. As I have met with her in recent months and come to better understand the enormous challenges she faces on a daily basis, my admiration and respect for her continues to grow. I hope each of us will take the opportunity to thank her and our other leadership judges for their service and dedication.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Appointed

The Judicial Branch of Arizona in Maricopa County announces the appointment of Vincent Iaria as Chief Juvenile Probation Officer.

Iaria will oversee 850 staff members who are responsible for programs that provide community supervision for approximately 4,500 youth on probation. He replaces Deputy Chiefs Debra Hall and Debra Olsen who filled-in as interim Co-Chiefs.

"Vincent Iaria brings tremendous leadership and vision to the position. His knowledge in juvenile probation will benefit the children, youth and families in our community," Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell said. "His work with various community-based organizations will be a huge asset for the Judicial Branch of Arizona."



Vincent Iaria

News and Notes

Governor Appoints Chris Coury to Superior Court Bench

Governor Jan Brewer today announced the appointment of Christopher Coury to the Maricopa County Superior Court.

Chris Coury is a partner with the law firm Ryley Carlock & Applewhite, where he has worked since 1999. Prior to that he worked for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office from 1996 to 1999, and the law firm O'Connor Cavanagh from 1995 to 1996. He clerked for Judge Edward Voss at the Arizona Court of Appeals from 1994 to 1995. Chris graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1994, and received his undergraduate degree from Notre Dame in 1991.



Christopher Coury

Chris's current law practice consists of commercial cases, securities fraud, banking law, contract and consumer fraud. At the Maricopa County Attorney's Office he practiced in the area of criminal law for several years prosecuting cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies and gang cases. Chris is a third-generation Arizonan who has donated generously of his time to numerous community organizations and proudly serves as a coach of the Scottsdale Soccer League team the Sharks.

"Chris Coury's impressive background in civil and criminal law make him well qualified to serve as Maricopa County Superior Court's newest judge," stated Governor Brewer. "Chris is thoughtful, deliberative and caring, and I am certain he will work diligently to assure that justice is administered fairly to all who appear before him." This appointment was made to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of the Honorable Robert C. Houser.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer - Continued from Page 2

Prior to his appointment, Iaria served as Acting Bureau Chief for Los Angeles County Probation Department.

During his career, he served as the Director of Probation for Suffolk County Probation Department in Yaphank, New York. He also worked in San Diego as the Chief Probation Officer for San Diego County Probation Department.

Associate Presiding Judge Norman Davis said, "Mr. Iaria was chosen from an extremely qualified and diverse field of excellent candidates. We are very fortunate to have a new probation chief with the vast experience and knowledge that Vincent Iaria possesses. He has extensive experience in managing large probation departments in both California and New York where he was instrumental in developing impressive juvenile justice programs."

Iaria received his Bachelor of Arts degree in History from State University of New York at Stony Brook and received a Masters in Public Administration from C.W. Post College of Long Island University and a Masters of Social Work from State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"I am honored to have been chosen by Presiding Judge Barbara Rodriguez Mundell and the search team of the Arizona Judiciary in Maricopa County to lead its Juvenile Probation Department. I have had a long-term career goal to work in Maricopa Juvenile Probation because in the Probation and Community Corrections field Maricopa Probation is well recognized for its innovation, its use of cost-effective, evidenced-based interventions and as a "Force for Positive Change" in the lives of youth. I look forward to collaborating with the staff of Maricopa Juvenile Probation and its community partners to continue to deliver the high quality youth probation services expected by our judiciary," Iaria said.

February Employee Anniversaries

5 Years

Elaine Harvey - Court Interpreter
Sheila Tickle - Juvenile Court Administrator
Susannah Hiralez - Comm Sys Optr
Sabrina Maestas-Munoz - Judicial Assistant
Lisa Smith - Judicial Clerk Senior
Anna Valdez - Judicial Clerk Associate
Theresa Winter - Judicial Clerk Supervisor
Beatrice Sainz - Administrative Assistant
David Szeto - Adult Probation Officer
Traci Bell - Juvenile Detention Officer
Jamie Grimsley - Juvenile Detention Officer
Mary Smith - Judicial Assistant
Eisha Galbraith - Presentence Screener

15 Years

Julie Lane - Judicial Assistant
Abdulla Mulazim - Juvenile Probation Officer
Calvin Parker - Juvenile Detention Officer
Mary O'Halloran - Judicial Clerk Associate

20 Years

Robert Robles - Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor
Rudolph White - Physical Education Coordinator
Lena DuPuis - Judicial Assistant

10 Years

Amy Allmon - Judicial Clerk
Jenny George - Judicial Assistant
Darla Vanatta - Judicial Clerk
Angela Meyer - Judicial Clerk Lead
Cynthia Mancinelli - Juv. Probation Officer
Angel Craig - Surveillance Officer
Julie Irby - Judicial Assistant
Michael Taylor - Juvenile Detention Officer
Frances Thomas - Juvenile Probation Officer
Donna Woods - Judicial Clerk
Daniel Rodgers - Adult Education Instructor

30+ Years

John Himmelberger - Juvenile Probation Officer

Service Awards

Board of Supervisors Recognizes Employees with 30 Years of Service

Below are the scripts read during the Board of Supervisors ceremony honoring employees.

Scott Loos, Court Interpretation and Translation Services

Scott began his employment with the Court in 1978 as a contractor and became a full time staff interpreter on August 28, 1979 and has served continuously since then. Scott has a fierce dedication to the interpreting profession and, as such, he has set and maintained high standards in the recruiting and training of interpreters. He has created an office that is highly regarded for its professional standards and interpreting ability which has earned him much deserved respect and admiration for his work and professionalism. Scott received a Commendation of Excellence from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education in 2001, an award for interpreter training from NACo in the 1990s and a special recognition from the Arizona Court Interpreters Association for professional enrichment and training in 1988 and 2009. He is a member of the American Translators Association and Arizona Court Interpreters Association and he serves on the rating panel for the Federal Interpreters Exam. He is a former instructor at the College of Charleston, Montclair State College, University of Houston and Arizona State University.

Scott is extremely knowledgeable and an excellent researcher. His training, tutelage and mentoring is credited by many of the staff for developing their skills and abilities, for which they are very grateful. He prepares training courses and classes for the department so that all of the interpreters have an opportunity to develop their own skills. He is well-educated and intelligent and prides himself on staying up-to-date with the newest terminology and research in interpreting. He is dedicated to the profession and takes pride in being a prepared and skilled interpreter and he does his best to instill those values in others within the department as well. Scott is patient and willing to take time to explain, correct, revise and direct the work of his colleagues. At the same time, he welcomes whatever anyone brings to the table as long as it is directly relevant to the job at hand.

Scott also has a wicked sense of humor that helps the staff get through the day-to-day business of running from courtroom to courtroom and dealing with the myriad of issues that arise. His experience over the last 30 years has provided him with many perspectives that enable others to understand certain situations and circumstances better within the department.

When asked what one word best describes him, that word is..."Dedicated".

Herbert Quezada, Juvenile Probation

Herb began his county career on September 10, 1979 and has held positions in the areas of Officer of the Day, Detention, Investigative Unit, Intake Screening and his current position in Field Probation Services. After 30 plus years of service, Herb brings a great deal of knowledge and experience to the job but most of all he brings energy and the willingness to assist others without hesitation. Herb's co-workers report that he is a very hard worker and easy to get along with. With all of his experience on the job, he is one of the most humble human beings you will ever meet. He goes out of his way to help others, and he genuinely wants to help clients succeed. Herb rarely misses work and consistently arrives to work early and leaves late. When asked what one word best describes him, his co-workers resoundingly said "Extraordinary".

Service Awards

Sylvia Paynter, Adult Probation

Sylvia began her career with Maricopa County at age 17. After many years with the Clerk's Office, she transferred to the Adult Probation Department on June 17, 1996. She is a judicial clerk associate, and her assignments with Adult Probation include Presentence word processing and support staff units in the Wells Fargo and Black Canyon Buildings, Warrants, and currently the Scottsdale Office.

Sylvia is known for her strong work ethic and her calm and patient demeanor. No matter how hectic the day, Sylvia remains cool under pressure and gets the job done. Along with her superior work ethic, Sylvia has many other exceptional qualities that serve her well as an employee, a co-worker and a friend. She is very easy to work with, a great listener, always considerate of others, very conscientious and she is very attentive to detail.

As a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Sylvia is always helping out her family as well as her own mother. I doubt that when she filled out that first application over 35 years ago she thought she would still be working for Maricopa County in the year 2010; but thankfully she has remained and the community at large and Maricopa County has benefitted greatly from her service.

Diane Rudnick, Probate

Diane started her career with the county working for the Justice Courts. After working for this department for a few years, she began her long tenure with the Trial Courts by becoming the Judicial Assistant for Commissioner Tontas in the Probate Court. After her stint with the Commissioner she went to work for Judge Riddel and then landed in the Law Library. In 1991, Diane's started working as the secretary for Probate Court Investigations and in 2001 she started working with the Volunteers of the Probate Court Guardianship Review Program where she works today.

Currently Diane is responsible for training and supervising the volunteers who work out of the Northwest Regional Court. At one time or another, Diane has worked within the following volunteer sites; Northeast Regional; Southeast Facility; the Scottsdale Senior Center and the Area Aging on Aging. There was even a full year that Diane ran all of the sites by herself!

Diane is always willing to help out others in the department by cross-training. Several years ago, Diane cross-trained to cover as a Calendar Clerk out at the Northwest Regional court; where she was located for several years. Diane recently moved back downtown and cross-trained to cover the downtown Probate Judicial Assistants.

Her co-workers at Northwest Regional frequently commented about Diane's collection of M&M dispensers. She keeps the dispensers filled for her volunteers and co-workers with milk chocolate, dark chocolate and peanut M&Ms. One of Diane's co-workers is quoted as having said, Diane offers a "daily dosage of sweetness, not only from the candies but from her positive and always smiling attitude."

The attitude that Diane brings with her to work every day as well as her willingness to help out wherever help is needed makes her an extremely valuable asset to Probate Court.

Evans Joining Probate/ Mental Health Department

Elizabeth Evans will be joining the Court's Probate/Mental Health department as the Probate Court Administrator.

During the past three years, Elizabeth has served as the Court's Education Administrator. Prior to this position, she was employed by the Arizona Supreme Court as the Judicial College Manager. Elizabeth is also the Vice President of the National Association of State Judicial Educators (NASJE).

Elizabeth earned her BA in English/History and her Masters in Public Administration from Arizona State University.

She will be working with Probate/Mental Health Presiding Judge Karen O'Connor and Linda Sandbloom in the coming months during her transition into the position.

Rotations

Judge Rotations - Continued from Page 1

Judge Michael McVey will assume Judge Cathy Holt's Northeast Civil calendar

Judge Margaret Mahoney will assume Judge Roger Brodman's Juvenile Durango calendar

Judge Randall Warner will assume Judge Richard Trujillo's Downtown criminal calendar

Judge Roger Brodman will assume Judge Margaret Mahoney's Downtown criminal calendar

Judge Norman Davis takes over as Presiding Judge and begins training on March 15

Judge Eddward Ballinger assumes Judge Norman Davis' Juvenile Presiding calendar

Judge Bethany Hicks assumes Judge Crane McClennen's Juvenile Durango calendar

Judge George Foster assumes Judge Bethany Hicks Downtown Civil calendar

Judge Samuel Thumma assumes Judge George Foster's Downtown Criminal calendar

Judge Carey Hyatt assumes Judge Colleen McNally's Presiding Family calendar

Judge Sherry Stephens assumes Judge Rosa Mroz' Downtown Criminal calendar

Judge Timothy Ryan assumes Judge Sherry Stephens Southeast Family calendar

Judge Dean Fink remains Tax Court Presiding Judge but changes location to the Old Courthouse (OCH 202)

Judge Karen O'Connor assumes Judge Sally Duncan's Downtown Criminal calendar

Judge Rosa Mroz assumes Judge Karen O'Connor's Probate/Mental Health Presiding Judge calendar

Judge Richard Gama assumes Judge Douglas Rayes' Downtown Civil calendar

Judge Robert Oberbillig assumes Judge Richard Gama's Presiding Civil calendar

Judge Douglas Rayes assumes Judge Gary Donahoe's Criminal Presiding calendar

Judge Gary Donahoe assumes Judge Robert Oberbillig's Downtown Civil calendar

Judge Colleen McNally assumes Judge Samuel Thumma's Juvenile Durango calendar

Judge Warren Granville assumes Judge Timothy Ryan's Associate Presiding Criminal calendar

Judge Sally Duncan assumes Judge Warren Granville's Downtown Criminal calendar

Newly-appointed Judge Christopher Coury will assume Judge Eddward Ballinger's Juvenile Durango calendar

New Judge (For Judge Trujillo) will assume Judge Randall Warner's Downtown Family calendar

New Judge (For Judge Mundell) will assume Judge Carey Hyatt's Northeast Family calendar

New Judge (For Judge Holt) will assume Judge Michael McVey's Downtown Family Court calendar

Commissioner Rotations include:

Commissioner Patricia Arnold assumes Commissioner Veronica Brame's Downtown Family calendar

Commissioner Veronica Brame assumes Commissioner Patricia Arnold's Downtown Mental Health calendar

Commissioner Susan White assumes Commissioner Virginia Richter's Initial Appearance calendar

Commissioner Virginia Richter will assume Commissioner Susan White's Downtown Early Disposition Court calendar

Courtside

Photo Highlights



Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch delivers the oath of office to **Judge Pamela Gates** during Judge Gates' investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.



Ms. Maria Hughes stands next to a portrait of her late husband, **The Honorable Edward W. Hughes**, during a portrait dedication ceremony in the Old Courthouse. Judge Hughes served on the Superior Court Bench from 1968 to 1985. Prior to his legal career, Judge Hughes had a decorated military career. He served as a fighter pilot in the US Air Force during World War II. He retired from the Air Force as a Colonel, and he later achieved the rank of Brigadier General in the National Guard.



Arizona Supreme Court Justice Michael D. Ryan delivers the oath of office to **Judge David Palmer** during Judge Palmer's investiture ceremony in the Board of Supervisors Auditorium in Phoenix.



Conciliation Services employees past and present joined **Joe Piergallini** to celebrate his retirement. Piergallini, pictured holding a certificate, served 29 years in Conciliation Services. During his career, he worked as a director, supervisor and as a conciliator.